

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9209
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 05003

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: JA, UR
SUBJECT: JAPANESE-SOVIET RELATIONS: SOVIETS STEP UP
CRITICISM

SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS IS CONTINUING TO ATTACK JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT FOR REJECTING MOSCOW'S GOOD NEIGHBOR AND
COOPERATION TREATY, FOR ALLOWING, IF NOT ENCOURAGING,
JAPANESE "MILITARISM", AND FOR PERMITTING JAPANESE TERRI-
TORY TO BE USED AS STAGING AREA FOR "TEAM SPIRIT, 1978"
EXERCISES IN SOUTH KOREA. JAPANESE DIPLOMAT HERE
STATES THAT RECENT SOVIET CRITICISMS AND DISTORTIONS OF
PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR POLICY ARE
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OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IN TOKYO AND COULD NECESSITATE A
JAPANESE PROTEST IF THEY CONTINUE. THE HEAVY-HANDED,
SOMETIMES COUNTERPRODUCTIVE SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN
REFLECTS THE AMBIVALENCE, IMMOBILITY AND BASIC DEFICIENCIES
IN SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF THE JAPANESE POLITY AND
NATIONAL TEMPERAMENT THAT HAVE LONG CHARACTERIZED SOVIET

POLICY TOWARD JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET ANTI-JAPANESE PRESS COMMENTARY IS AGAIN AT A HIGH LEVEL. MOST OF THE CRITICISM IS SPECIFICALLY LEVELED AT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR:

-- REJECTION OF SOVIET PROPOSED GOOD NEIGHBOR AND COOPERATION TREATY. SEIZING ON ALLEGATIONS IN JAPANESE PRESS THAT SOVIET UNION IS ATTEMPTING TO USE TREATY TO DRAW JAPAN INTO A "MILITARY ALLIANCE", SIGNED IZVESTIYA MARCH 6 ARTICLE CHARGES THAT "NONE OTHER THAN THE FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT OF JAPAN ITSELF ENCOURAGES" SUCH STATEMENTS. ARTICLE HOLDS THAT "ALLEGATIONS BY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF TOKYO THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS INTENTIONS TO 'ISOLATE' JAPAN FROM THE USA AND CHINA" THROUGH SOVIET PROPOSED TREATY ARE A "PRODUCT OF DELUSION, TO SAY THE LEAST."

-- PUSHING JAPAN TOWARD MILITARIZATION AND CLOSER MILITARY TIES WITH THE U.S. IN THIS CONNECTION, MARCH 1 TASS ITEM DATED TOKYO CRITICIZES RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE JAPANESE NATIONAL DEFENSE AGENCY KOMARUYAMA ALLEGEDLY CALLING FOR "ENVIGORATING JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE SYSTEM OF THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN SECURITY TREATY" BY UNDERTAKING AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD STRENGTHENING OF JAPAN'S MILITARY STRENGTH, "WHICH IS DEMANDED BY THE USA, ITS PARTNER IN THE MILITARY

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ALLIANCE". CLAIMING KOMARUYAMA REFERRED TO "THE HACKEYED SOVIET THREAT MYTH" TO JUSTIFY HIS POSITION, ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT "JAPAN'S DEMOCRATIC FORCES" ARGUE THAT "THE POLICY OF MILITARIZATION AND STRENGTHENING MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE USA RUNS COUNTER TO THE INTERESTS OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. . .AND SECURITY IN ASIA."

-- PERMITTING JAPANESE SOIL TO BE USED AS A STAGING AREA FOR "TEAM SPIRIT, 1978" JOINT EXERCISES IN SOUTH KOREA. MARCH 9 SIGNED IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY SCOLDS JAPAN FOR WILLINGLY ALLOWING U.S. Z Bases WHICH ALLEGEDLY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GRANTING THE U.S. A "FREE HAND ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA." ARTICLE ALSO ECHOES DPRK DENUNCIATION OF MANEUVERS, INCLUDING PYONGYANG'S DEMAND THAT JAPANESE "RULING CIRCLES" CEASE PERMITTING JAPANESE TERRITORY TO BE USED AS STAGING AREA FOR U.S. FORCES.

2. IN MARCH 11 PRAVDA COMMENTARY ENTITLED "DANGEROUS COURSE" AND MARCH 9 TASS ARTICLE ENTITLED "JAPAN'S

NUCLEAR AMBITIONS", SOVIET PRESS GOES A STEP FURTHER AND SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZES PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR MATTERS. PRAVDA ARTICLE REPORTS FUKUDA AS STATING THAT "POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR ARMS IS POSSIBLE AND ALLEGEDLY IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATION." ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT "ALTHOUGH A RESERVATION THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT POSSESS THESE ARMS WAS MADE. . .THE FACT OF SUCH A STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY ALARMED THE JAPANESE PEACEFUL PUBLIC." ARTICLE THEN NOTES THAT FUKUDA'S STATEMENT WAS MADE "IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF GENERAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 05003

ESCALATION OF MILITARISTIC MOODS IN THE COUNTRY'S INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES" AND WARNS AGAINST REPEATING THE "WELL KNOWN EXPERIENCE" OF THE 1930'S WHEN A COALITION OF JAPANESE MONOPOLIES AND THE MILITARY SOUGHT TO REINVIGORATE THE ECONOMY BY "PUTTING IT ON MILITARY TRACKS." MARCH 9 TASS ARTICLE REPORTS THAT FUKUDA "CAME FORWARD WITH A STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING THE JAPANESE ARMY WITH ATOMIC BOMBS." ARTICLE ALSO CHARGES FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA WITH BACKTRACKING FROM HIS EARLIER PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT THE "ACQUISITION OF

SUCH WEAPONS CONTRADICTS BOTH THE CONSTITUTION AND THE
POLICY OF JAPAN."

3. JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR TOLD EMBOFF HIS EMBASSY
IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING UPSWING IN ANTI-JAPANESE SOVIET
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PROPAGANDA AND HAS FOUND RISING NUMBER OF ATTACKS ON
JAPANESE "MILITARIZATION" NOTEWORTHY. IN FEBRUARY ALONE,
THERE WERE TWENTY-FIVE ARTICLES IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL
PRESS IN THIS CATEGORY. SOURCE STATED THAT TOKYO
IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED AT THE SOVIET PRESS' CRITICISM
AND DISTORTION OF PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S PARLIAMENTARY
STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR POLICY. IF SUCH TREATMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES, HE REMARKED, THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLAIN FORMALLY
TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: LIKE THE UNILATERAL SOVIET PUBLICATION OF
MOSCOW'S DRAFT GOOD NEIGHBOR AND COOPERATION TREATY,
THE PRESENT ANTI-JAPANESE PRESS CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY HERE
SEEMS DIRECTED AT INDIVIDUALS AND INTEREST GROUPS IN
JAPAN WHO ADVOCATE BOTH CAUTION IN CONCLUDING SINO-
JAPANESE PFT AND THE WEIGHING OF SOVIET ATTITUDES BEFORE
TAKING IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS. THE SOVIET
MEDIA'S EFFORTS TO CONTRAST ITS HARSH CRITICISM WITH
SELECTED STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT SOVIET TREATY
AND AGAINST JAPANESE "MILITARIZATION" MADE BY SOME JAPA-
NESE NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLIC FIGURES APPEAR TO BEAR THIS
OUT. ALTHOUGH NON-PRODUCTIVE AND APPARENTLY EVEN
OCCASIONALLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, THE OVERALL SOVIET
APPROACH REMAINS HEAVY-HANDED. AS SUCH, IT REFLECTS
THE AMBIVALENCE, IMMOBILITY AND BASIC DEFICIENCIES IN
SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE POLITY AND NATIONAL
TEMPERAMENT THAT HAVE LONG CHARACTERIZED SOVIET POLICY
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